

FILED

FEB 10 2020

SUSAN Y. SOONG
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Peter Strojnik (Sr.),
7847 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, Arizona 85020
602-524-6602
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DMR

Case No:

CV 20 - 1050
COMPLAINT

PETER STROJNIK (Sr.),

Plaintiff,

vs.

NAPA HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LLC.
DBA BEST WESTERN PLUS INN AT
THE VINES,

Defendant.

**1. Americans with Disabilities
Act**

**2. Discrimination in Public
Accommodations (State
Law)**

3. Negligence

JURY TRIAL REQUESTED

1. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the (1) Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.* and corresponding regulations, 28 CFR Part 36 and Department of Justice Standards for Accessible Design ("ADA"), (2) California Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code § 51, 52 ("Unruh") (3) the California Disabled Persons Act ("DPA") and (4) common law of negligence per se.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Peter Strojnik is a veteran and a disabled person as defined by the ADA, Unruh and DPA.

3. Plaintiff is a single man currently residing in Maricopa County, Arizona. Plaintiff is and, at all times relevant hereto has been, legally disabled by virtue of a severe right-sided neural foraminal stenosis with symptoms of femoral neuropathy, prostate cancer

and renal cancer, missing part of a limb (prosthetic right knee) and is therefore a member of a protected class under the ADA and Unruh.

4. Plaintiff suffers from physical impairments described above which impairments substantially limit his major life activities. Plaintiff walks with difficulty and pain and requires compliant mobility accessible features at places of public accommodation. Plaintiff's impairment is constant, but the degree of pain is episodic ranging from dull and numbing pain to extreme and excruciating agony.

5. Defendant, owns, operates leases or leases to a lodging business ("Hotel") located at 100 Soscol Ave., Napa, CA 94559 which is a public accommodation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7)(A) and Unruh.

JURISDICTION

6. District Court has jurisdiction over this case or controversy by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §§ 28-1331 and 42 U.S.C. § 12188 and 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

7. Plaintiff brings this action as a private attorney general who has been personally subjected to discrimination on the basis of his disability, *see* 42 U.S.C.12188 and 28 CFR §36.501.

8. This Court has continuing subject matter jurisdiction by virtue of, *inter alia*, Plaintiff's claim for equitable nominal damages.

9. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

10. The ADAAG AND Unruh violations in this Complaint relate to barriers to Plaintiff's mobility. This impairs Plaintiff's full and equal access to the Hotel which, in turn, constitutes discrimination satisfying the "injury in fact" requirement of Article III of the United States Constitution.

11. Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Hotel based on Plaintiff's knowledge that the Hotel is not ADA or State Law compliant as such compliance relates to Plaintiff's disability.

12. Plaintiff intends to visit Defendant's Hotel at a specific time when the Defendant's noncompliant Hotel becomes fully compliant with ADAAG; just as a disabled individual who intends to return to a noncompliant facility suffers an imminent injury from the facility's existing or imminently threatened noncompliance with the ADA, a

1 plaintiff who is deterred from patronizing a hotel suffers the ongoing actual injury of
2 lack of access to the Hotel.

3 **COUNT ONE**
4 **Violation of Plaintiff's Civil Rights under the ADA**

5 13. Plaintiff realleges all allegations heretofore set forth.

6 14. By virtue of his disability, Plaintiff requires an ADA compliant lodging facility
7 particularly applicable to his mobility, both ambulatory and wheelchair assisted.

8 15. Plaintiff intended to visited the Napa area in the September 28-29, 2019 time frame.

9 16. Plaintiff consulted booking websites to determine which of the many places of
10 lodgings identify and describe mobility accessible features in the hotels and guest
11 rooms in enough detail to reasonably permit Plaintiff to assess independently whether
12 a given hotel or guest room meets his accessibility needs.

13 17. Plaintiff selected Defendant's competitor and lodged there.

14 18. While lodging at Defendant's competitor, Plaintiff encountered numerous
15 accessibility barriers. Therefore, Plaintiff visited Defendant's Hotel to determine
16 whether *its* accessibility features would be adequate for Plaintiff's future intended
17 travel and lodging in the area.

18 19. At Defendant's hotel, however, Plaintiff also encountered barriers to accessibility
19 These barriers are documented in Addendum A which is by this reference
20 incorporated herein.

21 20. The ADA and Unruh violations described in Addendum A relate to Plaintiff's
22 disability and interfere with Plaintiff's full, equal and complete enjoyment of the
23 Hotel.

24 21. The removal of accessibility barriers listed above is readily achievable.

25 22. As a direct and proximate result of ADA Violations, Defendant's failure to remove
26 accessibility barriers prevented Plaintiff from equal access to the Defendant's public
27 accommodation.

28 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for all relief as follows:

A. Relief described in 42 U.S.C. §2000a – 3; and

B. Relief described in 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a) and (b) and, particularly -

1 C. Injunctive relief order to alter Defendant's place of public accommodation to
2 make it readily accessible to and usable by ALL individuals with disabilities;
3 and

4 D. Requiring the provision of an auxiliary aid or service, modification of a
5 policy, or provision of alternative methods, to the extent required by
6 Subchapter III of the ADA; and

7 E. Equitable nominal damages; and

8 F. For costs, expenses and attorney's fees; and

9 G. All remedies provided for in 28 C.F.R. 36.501(a) and (b).

COUNT TWO

10 **(Violation of the California Unruh Civil Rights Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§51, 52)**

11 23. Plaintiff realleges all allegations heretofore set forth.

12 24. Defendant has violated the Unruh by denying Plaintiff equal access to its public
13 accommodation on the basis of his disability as outlined above.

14 25. Unruh provides for declaratory and monetary relief to "aggrieved persons" who suffer
15 from discrimination on the basis of their disability.

16 26. Plaintiff has been damaged by the Defendant's non-compliance with Unruh and is
17 thereby aggrieved.

18 27. Pursuant to Cal Civ. Code §52, Plaintiff is further entitled to such other relief as the
19 Court considers appropriate, including monetary damages in an amount to be proven
20 at trial, but in no event less than \$4,000.00 per encounter with each barrier to
21 accessibility.

22 28. Pursuant to Unruh, Plaintiff is entitled to costs and expenses in an amount to be proven
23 at trial.

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

25 a. A Declaratory Judgment that at the commencement of this action Defendant was
26 in violation of the specific requirements of Unruh; and
27
28

- b. Irrespective of Defendants “voluntary cessation” of the ADA violation, if applicable, a permanent injunction pursuant to Unruh which directs Defendant to take all steps necessary to bring its accommodation into full compliance with the requirements set forth in the Unruh, and its implementing regulations, so that the Hotel facilities are fully accessible to, and independently usable by, disabled individuals, and which further directs that the Court shall retain jurisdiction for a period to be determined after Defendant certifies that its facilities are fully in compliance with the relevant requirements of the Unruh to ensure that Defendant has adopted and is following an institutional policy that will in fact cause Defendant to remain fully in compliance with the law; and
- c. Irrespective of Defendants “voluntary cessation” of the ADA violation, if applicable, the payment of costs of suit; and
- d. Order closure of the Defendant’s place of public accommodation until Defendant has fully complied with the Unruh; and
- e. For damages in an amount no less than \$4,000.00 per encounter with barrier; and
- f. For treble damages pursuant to Cal Civ. Code. §3345.
- g. The provision of whatever other relief the Court deems just, equitable and appropriate.

COUNT THREE

(Violation of the California Disabled Persons Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§54-54.3)

29. Plaintiff realleges all allegations heretofore set forth.
30. Defendant has violated the DPA by denying Plaintiff equal access to its public accommodation on the basis of his disability as outlined above.
31. The DPA provides for monetary relief to “aggrieved persons” who suffer from discrimination on the basis of their disability.
32. Plaintiff has been aggrieved by the Defendant’s non-compliance with the DPA.

1 33. Pursuant to the DPA, Plaintiff is further entitled to such other relief as the Court
2 considers appropriate, including monetary damages in an amount to be proven at trial,
3 but in no event less than \$1,000.00. Cal. Civ. Code § 54.3.

4 34. Pursuant to the DPA, Plaintiff is entitled to costs in an amount to be proven at trial.
5 Cal. Civ. Code § 54.3.

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 7 a. A Declaratory Judgment that at the commencement of this action Defendant was
8 in violation of the specific requirements of Unruh; and
- 9 b. Irrespective of Defendants "voluntary cessation" of the ADA violation, if
10 applicable, a permanent injunction pursuant to Unruh which directs Defendant to
11 take all steps necessary to bring its facilities into full compliance with the
12 requirements set forth in the Unruh, and its implementing regulations, so that the
13 facilities are fully accessible to, and independently usable by, disabled individuals
14 as required by law, and which further directs that the Court shall retain jurisdiction
15 for a period to be determined after Defendant certifies that its facilities are fully in
16 compliance with the relevant requirements of the Unruh to ensure that Defendant
17 has adopted and is following an institutional policy that will in fact cause
18 Defendant to remain fully in compliance with the law; and
- 19 c. Irrespective of Defendants "voluntary cessation" of the ADA violation, if
20 applicable, the payment of costs of suit; and
- 21 d. Order closure of the Defendant's place of public accommodation until Defendant
22 has fully complied with the DPA; and
- 23 e. For damages in an amount no less than \$1,000.00 per violation per encounter; and
- 24 f. For treble damages pursuant to Cal Civ. Code. §3345.
- 25 g. The provision of whatever other relief the Court deems just, equitable and
26 appropriate.
- 27
- 28

COUNT FOUR

Negligence

35. Plaintiff realleges all allegations heretofore set forth.

36. Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty to remove ADA accessibility barriers so that Plaintiff as a disabled individual would have full and equal access to the public accommodation.

37. Defendant breached this duty.

38. Defendant's knowing, and intentional discrimination has worked counter to our Nation's goals enumerated in 42 U.S.C. 12101(a), causing Plaintiff damage.

39. By engaging in negligent conduct described herein, Defendant engaged in intentional, aggravated and outrageous conduct.

40. Defendant either intended to cause injury to Plaintiff or defendant consciously pursued a course of conduct knowing that it created a substantial risk of significant harm to Plaintiff.

41. Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial sufficient, however, to deter this Defendant and others similarly situated from pursuing similar acts.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

A. For finding of negligence; and

B. For damages in an amount to be proven at trial; and

C. For punitive damages to be proven at trial; and


D. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

REQUEST FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff respectfully requests a trial by jury in issues triable by a jury.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 6th day of February, 2020.

PETER STROJNIK



Plaintiff

ADDENDUM A

BOOKING WEBSITES –ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

HOTELS.COM

Accessibility

Disabled parking |
In-room accessibility

Assistive listening devices available

Accessible bathroom

INSUFFICIENT ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

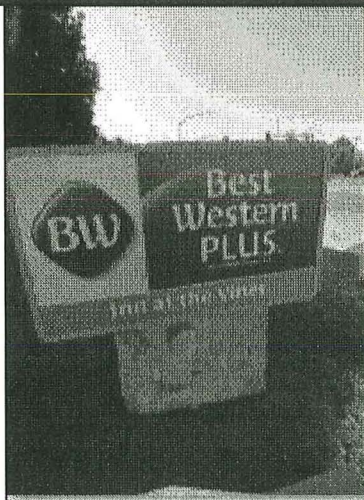
Identification of Specific Barrier in Plain Language: Booking websites fail to provide information required by 28 CFR §36.302(e).

The manner in which the barriers denied Plaintiff full and equal use or access, and which deter Plaintiff from visiting the Hotel: Barrier denied Plaintiff full and equal access by failing to identify and describe accessible features in the hotel and guest rooms in enough detail to reasonably permit Plaintiff to assess independently whether the hotel or guest room meets his accessibility needs.

<https://www.innatthevines.com/>

NO ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

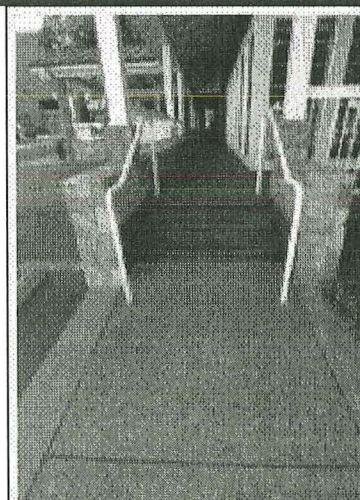
PERSONAL BARRIER ENCOUNTERS



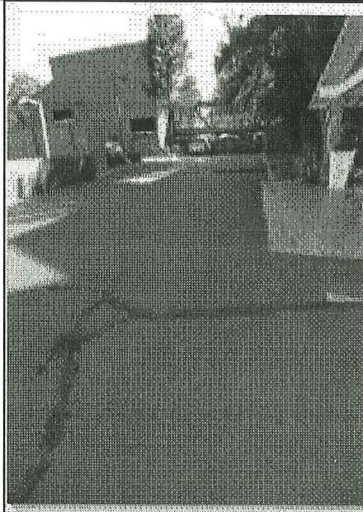
Identification



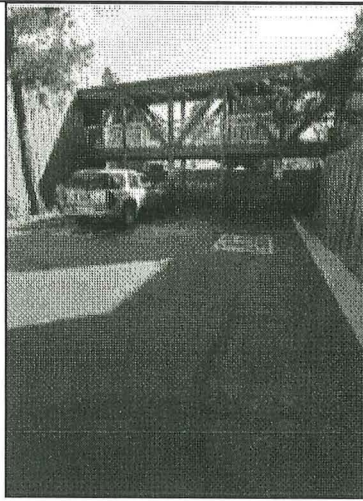
No access from street



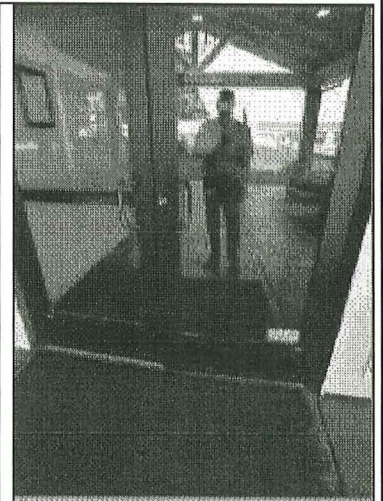
No signage to accessible route



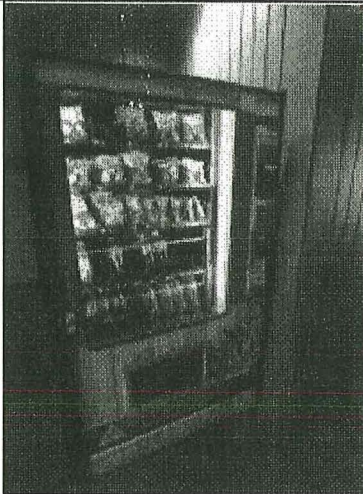
No marked pasenger
drop off zone



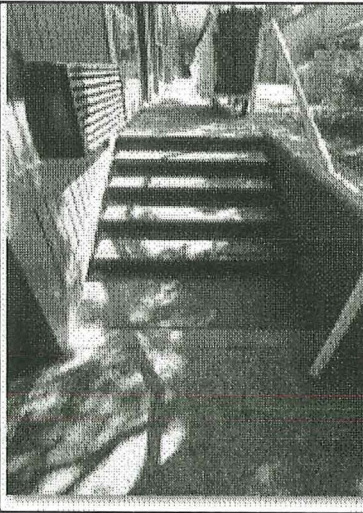
Accessible parking not closest
to entry



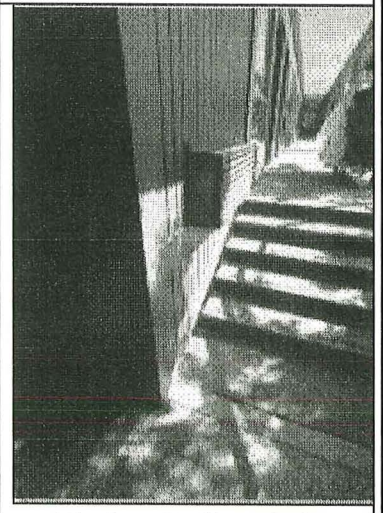
More than 5 lbs to open



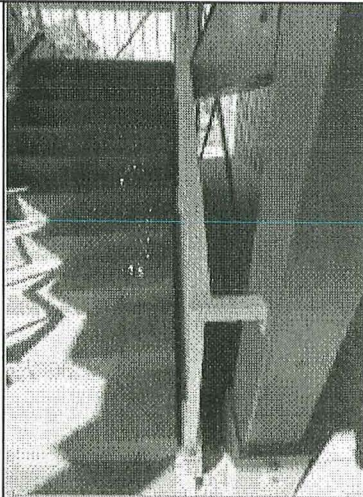
Inaccessible vending



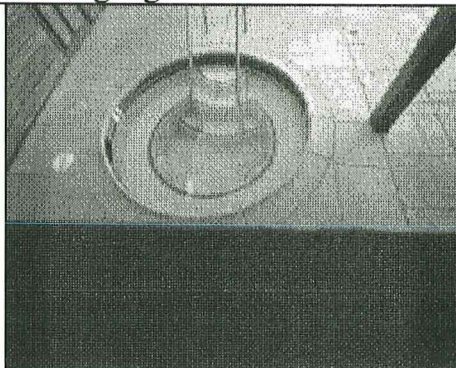
No signage to accessible route



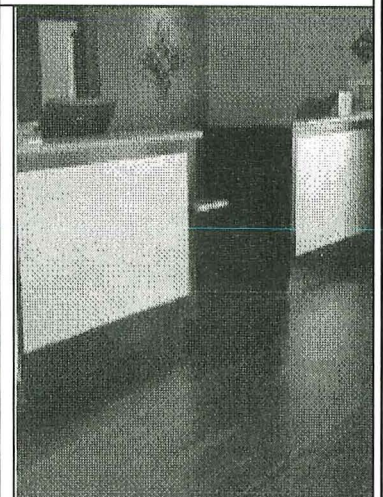
No handrail on left



Improperly configured
handrails



Inaccessible spa



Inaccessible check in
couner



Inaccessible lobby
seating area

Identification of Specific Barrier in Plain Language: As indicate below each photo.

The dates on each particular occasion on which Plaintiff encountered such barrier and which deter Plaintiff from visiting Hotel: On or about September 28-29, 2019

END